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Message Text

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ACTION H-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 0055

LIMDIS
FOR H AND AF
E.O. 11652: GDS-2
TAGS: CG, OREP (BOWEN, DAVID R.)
SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN BOWEN REQUEST FOR BRIEFING MATERIALS

1. CONGRESSMAN BOWEN SHOWED KEEN AND SYMPATHETIC INTEREST IN THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM THROUGHOUT HIS STAY HERE. SEE SEPTEL FOR DETAILS OF VISIT. HE REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED HIS INTENTION TO ENGAGE IN, IF NOT LEAD, THE UPCOMING HOUSE DEBATE ON ANGOLA WHEN THE CONGRESS RE-CONVENES. AND HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED US TO TRANSMIT HIS REQUEST TO THE DEPT FOR A "WHITE PAPER" ON ANGOLA WHICH HE WOULD USE TO CALL FOR CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED US HELP IN COUNTERING THE SOVIET/CUBAN EFFORT.

2. TO THIS END, CONGRESSMAN BOWEN REQUESTS THAT THE DEPT HAVE READY FOR HIM WHEN HE RETURNS TO WASHINGTON O/A JAN 18 BACKGROUND PAPERS/GRAPHICS COVERING: THE HISTORY OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, THEIR EVOLVING IDELOGIES AND SOURCES OF OUTSIDE SUPPORT; THE STORY OF THE VARIOUS PRE-INDEPENDENCE AGREEMENTS AMONG THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS (NAHURU, ALVOR, ETC.) AND HOW THE MPLA WITH SOVIET ASSISTANCE RENEGED ON THESE AGREEMENTS A SUMMARY OF HOW THE FIGHTING HAS EVOLVED INSIDE ANGOLA AND THE ROLE OF SOVIET/CUBAN IN-TERFERENCE; THE THREAT TO ZAIRE'S AND ZAMBIA'S SECURITY POSED BY SOVIET/CUBAN IMPLANTATION.
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3. IN SUM, CONGRESSMAN BOWEN SEES TWO CENTRAL ARGUMENTS WHICH MUST BE COUNTERED IN THE HOUSE IF THE EFFORT TO CONTINUE US SUPPORT TO FNLA/UNITA IS TO SUCCEED: (A) THE WAR IS NOT WINNABLE, THE FNLA/UNITA ARE LOSERS WHO SPEND MORE TIME SQUABBLING AND FIGHTING AMONGST THEMSELVES THAN THEY DO EFFECTIVELY CONFRONTING THE MPLA AND (B) US AND INDEED ZAIRIAN AND ZAMBIAN INTERESTS WILL NOT SUFFER IF THE SOVIET/CUBAN BACKED MPLA WINS, SIMPLY BECAUSE THE MPLA WILL OUST THE SOVIETS/CUBANS ONCE THEY ACHIEVE VICTORY AND ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA WILL FIND MEANS TO ACCOMMODATE TO A NEW BALANCE OF POWER IN CENTRAL AFRICA. CONGRESSMAN BOWEN AGRUES PERSUASIVELY TO THE CONTRARY, BUT HE HOPES THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE HIM FACTS AND FIGURES TO SUPPORT HIS THESIS THAT US AND KEY AFRICAN INTERESTS ARE INDEED THREATENED IN ANGOLA AND THAT WITH RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNTS OF MONEY AND NO DIRECT INVOLVEMENT THE US CAN HELP BRING ABOUT A MILITARY STALEMATE AND THUS SET THE CONDITIONS THAT COULD LEAD TO A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY.
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